United Nations S/2012/833

Security Council

Distr.: General
14 November 2012

Original: English

Identical letters dated 12 November 2012 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Upon instructions, I would like to bring the following developments at the Turkish-Syrian border to your kind attention.

On 9 November 2012, Syrian Government forces, using heavy weaponry, carried out an operation on the Syrian border town of Ras al-Ayn, adjacent to the Turkish border town of Ceylanpinar.

Stray bullets and shell fragments fell into the Turkish territory, causing physical damage and wounding seven Turkish citizens, two of them severely. Furthermore, with the escalation of violence, 9,000 Syrian citizens crossed the border and sought refuge in Turkey.

The Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs sent a note verbale on the same day to the Syrian Consulate General in Istanbul, and demanded an end to the artillery fire aimed towards the Turkish territory, which endangers the lives of the Turkish citizens and thus constitutes a threat to Turkey's security.

Yet the Syrian Government broadened the scope of the operations and introduced aerial elements to the ongoing indiscriminate and deliberate bombardment of the town. On 12 November 2012, a bomb released from a Syrian fighter jet fell onto an area only 50 metres away from the Turkish-Syrian border; shell fragments injured one Turkish citizen and damaged a teachers' guesthouse, which functions as a lodge for teachers stationed in town. On the same day, an area inside Syria, only 300 metres from the border, being utilized by Syrians for border crossing, was bombed by Syrian planes. Two Syrian fighter jets dropped three bombs in the following hours, wounding three Turkish citizens and shattering the windows of over 200 buildings on the Turkish side. Towards evening, a Syrian helicopter flew along the border for 15 minutes.

In the aftermath of those operations, an additional 2,574 Syrian citizens crossed the Turkish border for safety and shelter. Sixty-four wounded Syrian citizens sought medical treatment at Turkish hospitals; 10 of them passed away.

A note verbale was sent to the Consulate General of Syria in Istanbul on the same day, underlining the concern over the persistent violations of our borders, and reminding the Syrian authorities of the Turkey-Syria Border Protocol, dated 15 June 1971, whereby the two parties undertook not to commission military flights from

Please recycle

within 5 kilometres of the border. The diplomatic note also notified the Syrian Government of Turkey's determination to implement the said provision.

I would be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Y. Halit **Çevik**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative